

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3689

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL KENNEY

1. STAFFDEL ARRIVED CAIRO ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 23 AND WAS INCLUDED IN AMBASSADOR EILTS' RECEPTION FOR CODEL STRATTON THAT EVENING. THEY HAD EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MANY IMPORTANT EGYPTIANS AS WELL AS AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS. ON SATURDAY MORNING, STAFFDEL GIVEN BRIEFING BY BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE, COL. A. D. LEWIS, CONCERNING ORGANIZATION OF EGYPTIAN ARMY AND ITS WEAPONRY. STAFFDEL ASKED MANY QUESTIONS WHICH WERE ANSWERED IN VERY FRANK TERMS BY MILITARY ATTACHE. NO OTHER APPOINTMENTS WERE ARRANGED IN AFTERNOON AND STAFFDEL TOOK TIME FOR SOME TOURIST AND SHOPPING ACTIVITIES. CONTROL OFFICER JOINED THEM FOR DINNER ON SATURDAY EVENING.

2. ON MORNING NOVEMBER 24, STAFFDEL AND CONTROL OFFICER, ACCOMPANIED BY GEN SAAD MAAMOUN, WERE TAKEN TO SECOND ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT ISMAILIA AND GIVEN BRIEFING ON PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF EGYPTIAN PLANS FOR OCTOBER WAR. THE PRESENT ON-THE-GROUND SITUATION WAS ALSO COVERED. GEN. MAAMOUN PRSONALLY GAVE BRIEFING AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS VERY FRANKLY, KEEPING SECRET ONLY THE METHOD THROUGH WHICH EGYPTIAN FORCES WERE PLACED IN POSITION AND THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES INCURRED BY EGYPTIAN ARMY DURING WAR. BECAUSE GEN. MAAMOUN IS A TANK EXPERT, STAFFDEL WAS ABLE TO GET ANSWERS MANY QUESTIONS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO THEM. AFTER BRIEFING, GROUP WAS TAKEN TO HEADQUARTERS OF SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION OF SECOND ARMY. HEADQUARTERS WERE LOCATED IN

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SINAI SOMEWHERE IN AREA OF FIRDAN BRIDGE. AFTER PLEASANT DIS-

CUSSION WITH BRIGADIER COMMANDING THE DIVISION, GROUP VIEWED VARIOUS SITES WITHIN BRIGADIER'S COMMAND, INCLUDING CAPTURED ISRAELI CENTRAL COMMAND HQS. AND THE LOCATION ON CENTRAL SINAI ROAD WHERE ISRAELI 190TH ARMORED BRIGADE WAS DESTROYED AND ITS COMMANDER CAPTURED.

3. AFTER TOUR OF THE BATTLEFIELD, GROUP, ACCOMPANIED BY BRIGADIER, RETURNED SECOND ARMY HQS. ISMAILIA WHERE A LUNCHEON WAS GIVEN HONORING STAFFDEL. LUNCHEON WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL OF SECOND ARMY SENIOR STAFF AND STAFFDEL MEMBERS WERE ABLE DISCUSS FREELY TACTICAL QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO THEM. THERE WAS EXCHANGE OF TOASTS IN WHICH MR. KENNEY BRIEFLY EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE HOSPITALITY SHOWN STAFFDEL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT, HIS HOPE THAT PEACE WOULD SOON COME TO THE AREA AND THAT VISITS SUCH AS THE STAFFDEL'S WOULD MAKE A SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO THAT PEACE. GEN. MAAMOUN REPLIED THAT AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN PEOPLE HAD ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDS AND HE HOPED ALSO THAT THERE MIGHT SOON BE A JUST PEACE IN THE AREA AND THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WOULD GROW. IN THE MEANTIME, AMERICANS WERE VERY WELCOME TO COME AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN EGYPT.

4. STAFFDEL RETURNED CAIRO LATE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 24 AND DEPARTED FOR ATHENS ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 25. STAFFDEL MEMBERS WERE VERY SERIOUS, HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE GOOD IMPRESSION ON THEIR HOSTS AND WE BELIEVE THEY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THEM, AS WELL AS AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.
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